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The White-bellied Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* from Java

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In 1848 (p. 369), Streubel gave a name to a swift from Java, *Hemiprocne fucivora*. The type of this species (ZMB No. 8390, Temminck, Java, sex not indicated) is not a Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* (see Brooke 1969) as had been supposed, but is a very typical White-bellied Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta linchi* from Java. It is glossy green, the hindtoe is naked, without white spots on the under part of the tail feathers. The measurements (in mm) of the wing, the tail, the exposed culmen, and the tarsus of this specimen are 87.0 (the ninth primary in moult, score: 2—see Newton 1966) 34.0, 4.0, and 9.0 respectively. These suggest that *Collocalia fucivora* (Streubel 1848) is a senior synonym of *Collocalia linchi* Horsfield & Moore 1854 (a paper on the identity of *C. linchi* is in preparation).

Streubel's name, however, has appeared only once since it was published. Gray (1866: 119) doubtfully listed *Hemiprocne fucivora* Streubel as a synonym

of *Collocalia linchi* Horsfield & Moore; he was suspicious about the accuracy of the description of the bird given by Streubel. Gray (1866: 127) pointed out that "some parts of the description that he gives, however, of his *salangana* [which he implies is equal to the *H. esculenta* of Linnaeus] conveys a doubt as to the bird described by him being really a *Collocalia* . . .". Although Gray doubted the accuracy of Streubel's description, he had apparently not examined the type of *fuscivora*. Accordingly, *Collocalia fuscivora* (Streubel) may be regarded as an unused senior synonym (see Article 23b, Int. Code Zool. Nomencl. 1964).

Warren (1966: 164) assigned the adult swiftlet specimen 1880.1.1.4649, ex Coll. Ind. Mus., collected by Horsfield from Java as a syntype of *Collocalia linchi* Horsfield & Moore 1854. This specimen, however, is not a typical White-bellied Swiftlet from Java. It is glossy blue, without white spots on the under part of the tail feathers and the feather tuft on the hindtoe is apparently worn off. The measurements (in mm) of the wing and the tail are 95.5 (the 8th primary in moult, score: 3—see Newton 1966), and 37.5 respectively. The bill is partly broken and the tarsus is difficult to measure. This specimen might belong to *C. e. affinis*, and was most probably collected in the Andamans or the Nicobar Islands.

Warren (1966: 164) noted further that there are several other syntypes of *C. linchi* in the collection of the BMNH. It should be noted, however, that only 2 specimens are mentioned in the original description of *Collocalia linchi* Horsfield & Moore 1854, namely: "A. adult, B. young and nest. Java, From Dr. Horsfield's Collection". In the collection of the BMNH there is only one typical adult White-bellied Swiftlet specimen from Java bearing labels similar to those of 1880.1.1.4649. It is registered as 80.1.1.4619, and designated as "cotype of *Collocalia linchi*". A young specimen bearing labels similar to those of the specimens 1880.1.1.4649 and 4619 could not be located in the collection.

Consequently, the specimen 1880.1.1.4649 listed by Warren (1966: 164) as a syntype of *C. linchi* must have been wrongly labelled; this number being most likely that of the unlocated young White-bellied Swiftlet specimen collected by Horsfield from Java. The adult specimen 80.1.1.4619, ex Coll. Ind. Mus., collected by Horsfield from Java (sex not indicated) is here designated as the lectotype of *Collocalia linchi* Horsfield & Moore 1854. The measurements (in mm) of the wing, the tail, and the exposed culmen are 94.0, 41.0, and 3.5 respectively; the tarsus is difficult to measure.

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Notes on the nesting behaviour of *Acrocephalus aequinoctialis*

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The Bokikokiko, or Christmas Island Warbler, *Acrocephalus aequinoctialis* is endemic to the Line Islands and the papers by Gallagher (1960), Clapp & King (1975) and Schreiber (1979) are the only published sources of information on this species. While on Christmas Island (2°N, 157°W), central Pacific Ocean, between 12 and 21 July 1980 we recorded observations on nestling behaviour, behaviour of adults while feeding, and flight and prey capture by adults of this species.

On 12 July 1980 Milder discovered a nest containing four nestlings estimated as 5-7 days old. The nest was located c. 2 m off the ground on the mainland side of a 5 m tall Beach Heliotrope *Messerschmidia argentea* on the beach crest. Finding the nest was easy because the young called frequently when left alone by the parents, and the duration, intensity, and volume of calling increased when parents arrived at the nest. Both parents fed the young, and the nest was visited on an average of once every 2.5 minutes during the 6.5 hours of observation (Figure 1) during 9 days which covered all times of

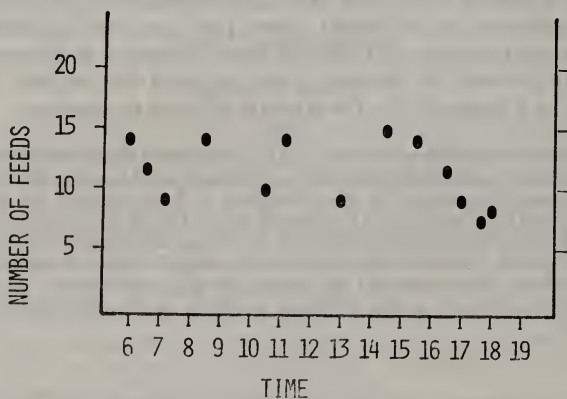


Fig. 1. Number of feedings per half hour by adult *Acrocephalus aequinoctialis*. Sunrise (06.30), sunset (18.30).